

To: Members of the Health and Medicine Policy Research Group

From: Rachel Pearson

Date: 1/19/14

Re: Medicaid 1115 Draft Application

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I am the mother of two children with autism, one in fourth grade and one in seventh grade. Every day I fight for their right to make choices about their own lives. Every day I endeavor to teach them the skills to fight for their own rights. Determining their own future should belong to them just as much as it belongs to any child. As adults, they should have just as much say in the choices that have a real impact on their lives as any adult.

For these reasons, I am strongly opposed to the elimination of the Community First Choice Option (CFC) and the implementation of mandatory training for PAs. The rights of consumers with disabilities to live in their own homes and to control who works in their homes and who touches their bodies should be inviolable, and fiercely protected by the State of Illinois. Please join with consumers with disabilities in defense of every person's right to live in our own homes and train our own employees.

In considering how important these protections are for consumers with disabilities, stop for a moment and imagine your response if these protections were taken away from you.